

Message Text

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ACTION MCT-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3882

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1114

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION REACHED
AT BONN'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 186923 (B) DOHA 516

1. ON JULY 29 CHARGE CALLED ON ISSA AL-KAWARI, GOQ MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CHIEF OF CABINET OF EMIR KHALIFA, AND PRESENTED TO HIM USG VIEWS AND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE BONN ANTI-JACKING DECLARATION (REF A) AND HOW SERIOUS WE WERE ABOUT IMPLEMENTING OUR COMMITMENT UNDER ITS TERMS.

2. MINISTER AL-KAWARI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY WITH NO VISIBLE REACTION, AND WHEN I PAUSED TOWARDS THE END OF MY STATEMENT, HE NODDED AND SAID, "YOU KNOW, WE (THE QATARIS) AGREE WITH YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND ALWAYS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT HIJACKERS WERE NOT TO BE ENCOURAGED. WE (THE QATARIS) ARE IN FAVOR OF TAKING A FIRM STAND AND STRICK MEASURES TO FORESTALL ANY SUCH ACTION." AT THIS TIME I ASKED HIM IF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PUBLICLY SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BONN ANTI-HIJACKING DECLARATION IN THE FORM OF A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS. HIS REPLY WAS THAT HE WILL PUT IT TO THE AMIR AND IT WAS UP TO HIM (THE AMIR) TO DECIDE. HE ALSO STATED THAT NORMALLY BEFORE THEY TOOK
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SUCH TYPE OF ACTION, THEY COORDINATED THEIR MOVE WITH THE NEIGHBORING GULF STATES. I TOLD HIM THAT THEY MIGHT WISH TO DO THAT BUT THAT WE STILL WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL ACTION ALL THE SAME.

3. AT THIS JUNCTURE I BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THE FACT THAT THE STATE OF QATAR HAD NOT YET ACCEDED TO THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL

CONVENTIONS, ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS WITH DR. KAMEL (LEGAL ADVISOR TO EMIR KHALIFA) (REF B). IT SEEMED TO ME HE WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED TO HEAR ME SAY THAT THEY HAD NOT ACCEDED TO THE CONVENTIONS AND ASKED ME WHY. I GAVE HIM THE REASONS OUTLINED REF B, TO WHICH HE REPLIED THAT HE WILL DEFINITELY CHECK WITH DR. KAMEL AND SEE WHAT HE COULD DO. HE REPEATED TO ME THAT HE WILL BRING THE SUBJECT OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMIR.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER AL-KAWARI IS LEAVING JULY 31 FOR A THREE-TO-FOUR-WEEK VACATION IN EUROPE, AND IN OUR OPINION WE DOUBT IF HE WILL HAVE THE TIME TO TAKE ANY POSITIVE STEPS BEFORE HE DEPARTS REGARDING EITHER THE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OR THE ACCESSION TO THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS
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